

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2105

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, GH
SUBJ: SEAM MACBRIDE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

1. SEAM MACBRIDE, FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU, ADDRESSED ON MAR. 21 A SEMINAR ON "RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS" IN COMMEMORATION OF SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE. SEMINAR WAS SPONSORED BY GHANA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION AS FOLLOW-UP TO MAR. 18-21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONALS ASSOCIATIONS.

2. CITING WASHINGTON POST, MACBRIDE SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAS DEVELOPED AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR CAPACITY THAT IT "WITHIN TWO TO FOUR YEARS OF MANUFACTURING AN ATOMIC BOMB." HE DESCRIBED THIS AS "A FRIGHTENING PROSPECT FOR HUMANITY AS A WHOLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA IN PARTICULAR . . . THIS IS A PROBLEM OF THE UTMOST URGENCY AND ONE WHICH REQUIRES THE ENERGETIC ACTION
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OF ALL AFRICAN STATES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND UNITED NATIONS."

3. FOR THIS REASON, ACCORDING TO MACBRIDE, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY ON MAR. 20 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING "THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THE TAKING OF IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO STATE,

MULTINATIONAL OR OTHER BODY OR PERSON PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA WITH ANY EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, EXPERTS, OR ANY MATERIAL WHICH WOULD ASSIST SOUTH AFRICA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OR PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND." EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO ASKED GOG TO PRESENT THIS RESOLUTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL, NEXT UNGA, AND TO HAVE IT CIRCULATED AS A UN DOCUMENT.

4. MACBRIDE IDENTIFIED US, FRANCE AND FRG AS WESTERN POWERS INVOLVED, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AGENTS OR MULTINATIONALS, IN GIVING SOUTH AFRICA A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. HE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS "AN HONEST MAN GENUINELY SEEKING TO PREVENT A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST" BUT ADDED THAT "PUBLIC OPINION MUST BE ALERTED AND MUST INIST ON THE COMPLETE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IMMEDIATELY."

5. COMMENT: SEMINAR WAS LIGHTLY ATTENDED (5 PANELISTS AND ABOUT 55 IN AUDIENCE); WITH EXCEPTION OF HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR AND OFFICERS FROM US, ROMANIAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES, LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORP LET EVENT PASS UNNOTICED. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL OFF, MACBRIDE WAS AFFABLE BUT NOT INCLINED TO PLAY DOWN HIS OWN ROLE IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ISSUES. HE SAID HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF PRINCIPAL COMMISSION OF 1960 ACCRA CONFERENCE TO OUTLAW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THAT MCCLOY-ZORIN ACCORDS REACHED THERE REPRESENTED "NEAREST POINT OF ACCORD BETWEEN THE US AND USSR ON ABILITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT." SMITH

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